

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
MCT-01 NEAE-00 /079 W
-----005035 091235Z /45

O 091121Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3536
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMCONGEN JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 7318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, PBOR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: ISRAELI RAID IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: USDAO TEL AVIV IR 6 849 0496 78, DTG 090630Z JUN 78

1. IN A SPECIAL BRIEFING GIVEN TO DATT AND ALUSNA, THE
IDF PROVIDED DETAILS ON THEIR SEABORNE RAID INTO SOUTHERN
LEBANON THE NIGHT OF 8-9 JUNE 1978. THE IDF BRIEFING
OFFICER UTILIZED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS ACTUALLY USED IN
PLANNING THE MISSION AS HIS BRIEFING MATERIAL.

2. THE IDF HAD DETERMINED THAT FATAH WAS UTILIZING
DAHAR EL BURJ (332805N-351803E) AS A TRAINING AREA
FOR FUTURE SEABORNE TERRORISTS RAIDS AGAINST ISRAEL.

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THE BRIEFING OFFICER STATED THAT THE IDF CONDUCTED
THIS RAID BECAUSE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHIN THE
PREVIOUS WEEK HAD REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF RELATIVELY
LARGE FIBERGLASS BOATS IN THIS AREA, AND OTHER FIRM
INFORMATION INDICATED THAT FATAH WAS PLANNING TO
LAUNCH A SEABORNE TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL FROM THIS
BASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE FATAH NAVAL TRAINING BASE CONSISTED OF SIX BUILDINGS BETWEEN THE SHORE LINE AND SMALL ACCESS ROAD. A CLUSTER OF THREE BUILDINGS WAS SITUATED CLOSE TO THIS ACCESS ROAD, THE OTHER THREE BUILDINGS WERE PARALLEL TO THE SHORELINE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SHORELINE, THE ROADS AND THE CLEARED AREAS AROUND THE BUILDING, THE MAJORITY OF TERRAIN IS VEGETATION. APPROXIMATELY FOUR KILOMETRES TO THE SOUTH/SOUTHWEST OF THE TRAINING CAMP IS A COVE SHIELDED BY HIGH CLIFFS AND UNDERGROWTH. TO THE SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF THE CAMP, APPROXIMATELY SIX TO SEVEN KILOMETRES IS A MAIN ROAD WITH BUILDINGS, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, ALONGSIDE OF IT. IN THEIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, THE IDF WAS ABLE TO DETECT TWO WELL CAMOUFLAGED FIBERGLASS BOATS IN THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE THREE BUILDINGS SITUATED ALONG THE EDGE OF THE ACCESS ROAD.

4. THE IDF PREEMPTIVE RAID LAST NIGHT WAS A JOINT IDF PARATROOPER/INF COMMANDO OPERATION. THE OVERALL COMMAND AHSORE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE IDF PARATROOPERS. THE INF HAD COMMAND DURING THE SEABORNE PORTION OF THE RAID. THE INF LANDED THE RAIDERS USING RUBBER RAFTS FROM A RESHEF MISSILE BOAT (SAAR 4) AT SEA OFF THE COAST. USING THE COVE WHICH PROVIDED A SECURE PLACE FOR LANDING AS WELL AS AN IDEAL RADAR IDENTIFICATION POINT, THE
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RAIDING PARTY LANDED UNDETECTED AT APPROXIMATELY MID-NIGHT OF THE 8-9 JUNE TIME FRAME. FROM THE COE TO THE FATAH TRAINING CAMP, THE RAIDERS WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH VEGETATION AND ALONG THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE MAIN CAMP. THE RAIDERS ARRIVED AT THE TRAINING CAMP COMPLETELY UNDETECTED AND TOTAL SURPRISE WAS ACHIEVED. IN THE RAID, THE IDF PARATROOPERS AND INF COMMANDOS DESTROYED FOUR FIBERGLASS BOATS AND TWO RUBBER BOATS, EXPLODED FOUR BUILDINGS, AND CONFIRMED BY BODY COUNT SIX TO SEVEN TERRORISTS KILLED. NO TERRORISTS PRISONERS WERE TAKEN. IDF PARATROOPERS/INF COMMANDO CASUALTIES CONSISTED OF TWO KILLED, EIGHT WOUNDED, THE CASUALTIES OCCURRED WHEN A HOUSE APPARENTLY FULL OF AMMUNITION EXPLODED. IAF, USING HELICOPTERS, EVACUATED THE WOUNDED AS WELL AS THE DEAD. THE RAIDERS RETURNED AS

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THEY HAD ARRIVED. WHILE ALL THE RESULTS OF LAST NIGHTS RAID ARE STILL NOT AVAILABLE, THE IDF BRIEFING OFFICER CONCLUDED THAT BASED ON WHAT HE HAD, THE RAID WAS A SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO THE IDF BRIEFING OFFICER THE RAID DEFINITELY PREEMPTED A TERRORIST RAID ON ISRAEL. THE IDF ALSO CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF LARGE MOTOR BOATS CAPABLE OF BEING LAUNCHED FROM THIS BASE TO ISRAEL WITHOUT THE USE OF A MOTHER SHIP.

5. COMMENT: THE IDF BRIEFING OFFICER WAS QUICK TO COMMENT THAT THIS RADI DID NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON ON 13 JUNE. THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF THIS BRIEFING AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE IDF PERSONNEL PRESENT, WAS ONE OF PROFESSIONAL PRIDE. AS MAY BE RECALLED,
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ARMA, IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE, OPINED THAT IDF MILITARY ACTION IN THE NORTH WOULD BE OF THIS TYPE. THIS WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT LT GEN EITAN'S EXPERIENCE AS A PARATROOPER AND HIS SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN THE RAID IN BEIRUT AIRPORT, HE WOULD BE PRONE TO CONDUCT SUCH TYPES OF RAID DURING HIS TENURE AS CHIEF OF STAFF.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT INF WAS ABLE TO PLAY A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS RAID LAST NIGHT. EVER SINCE THE 10 MARCH SEABORNE TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL, THE INF HAS JUST BEEN ITCHING AT A CHANCE TO GET BACK AT THE TERRORISTS AND TO SHOW THE ISRAELI PEOPLE THAT THEY DO IN FACT HAVE A STRONG PROFESSIONAL NAVY. (AS A FURTHER NOTE, ALUSNA, AT A FUNCTION HOSTED IN HIS HOME FOR DEPARTING AALUSNA AND ARRIVING AALUSNA, HAD NOTED THAT THE HIEARCHY OF THE INF INCLUDING THE COMMANDER, HIS DEPUTY, THE OPS AND PLANS OFFICER AND THE SENIOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANT, WERE NOTICEABLY ABSENT FROM THIS FUNCTION.

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